

## Franklin & Armfield Office

### **1315 Duke Street**

Between 1828 and 1836, Isaac Franklin and John Armfield created the largest-scale slave trading operation in the antebellum South. Alexandria was a convenient location because of a surplus of slaves from the nearby tobacco districts of Virginia and Maryland. Armfield bought slaves, and Franklin sold them to cotton planters at the firm's New Orleans and Natchez offices. The firm had agents in most southern cities and trafficked in thousands of slaves annually. After the firm disbanded, this brick town house that served as their office continued as a slave market until 1861; during the Civil War, captured Confederate soldiers were held in it. (See Isaac Franklin Plantation, Sumner County, Tennessee.)